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SUBJECT: DCI WW Briefing

Nuclear Proliferation

The spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries constitutes a continuing threat to world order and stability. The global nonproliferation regime will undergo increasing strains in the months ahead as more countries--some of proliferation concern--reach out for nuclear supplies and technologies. International cooperation to deal effectively with these challenges has been weakened by the politicization of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the US walkout. And cooperation among nuclear supplier states has been complicated by China's entry into the international market as a source of unsafeguarded nuclear materials.

Of the various potential proliferators, Pakistan poses the most immediate threat.

In addition to Pakistan, we keep a close watch on other countries that are developing their potential for building nuclear weapons.

India is watching the Pakistani situation closely and could at some stage resort to military action to set back Pakistan's nuclear efforts. Alternatively, it might decide to proceed with its own nuclear weapons program. Israel shares India's concerns about Pakistan and may be contemplating countermeasures of its own.

In Latin America, the Falklands War probably has resulted in a greater determination on the part of Argentina not to forego a nuclear weapons option. As a result, Brazil is likely to intensify its as yet modest weapons-related nuclear research.

In East Asia, the ambitions of Taiwan and South Korea to develop the underpinnings of a nuclear weapons capability continue to pose challenges to US non-proliferation efforts. And South Africa is expanding its capacity to acquire fissile material.

In the Middle East, Iraq is determined to rebuild its nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel, and Libya continues to develop its nuclear research facilities with substantial Soviet assistance.

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